

A FLOURISHING UNIVERSITY

The Value of Cornell Said to be \$10,000,000.

It Has an Annual Income of \$500,000 and Seventeen Hundred Students on its Rolls. A Young and Gigantic American Educational Institution.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, June 11.—At the head of the public educational system of the state of New York stands Cornell university, one of the wealthiest and most efficient, at the same time that it is one of the youngest, of American institutions of learning. Cornell has an annual income of \$500,000, and the value of its property and endowment is \$10,000,000. In fact, there are but two or three wealthier universities on the continent. But notwithstanding its wealth Cornell is compelled to exercise rigid economy to carry out the work demanded of a modern university, and President Schurman urges the necessity of larger endowments and the establishment of new departments and professorships.

Cornell is to some extent the state university of New York. It receives the income from the funds arising from the



PRESIDENT SCHURMAN.

agricultural college land grant act, which gave to the state of New York 990,000 acres of public land to be devoted to agricultural and industrial education. The land was valued at \$600,000, and the question in the legislature at Albany, as in other state legislatures, was how it could best be used for the promotion of state education. The natural way of disposing of the grant would have been to divide it among the score of eager claimants. That it was not so divided and frittered away was due to two senators, Hon. Ezra Cornell of Ithaca and Hon. Andrew D. White of Syracuse.

The Head of the Institution.

Dr. Charles Kendall Adams, a leading American historical scholar, was president of Cornell university from 1885 to 1892, and during his able administration the university grew with wonderful rapidity upon the foundations laid by Cornell, White and Sage. Upon his resignation the mantle fell upon Jacob Gould Schurman, LL. D., who had been dean of the Sage School of Philosophy at Cornell. President Schurman has the strong individuality and depth of character of ex-President White and possesses a magnetism and approachableness rarely found among literary men. In fact, he is as much a man of the world as student. He has had his own way to make in the world since he was a boy of 12, and so is never in danger of losing sympathy with boys, either in college or outside. It is therefore easy to see that, while President Schurman is one of the foremost scholars and teachers of philosophy in the United States, he is also one of the most practical men engaged in administration anywhere. He addresses with equal ease a gathering of philosophers or a meeting of business men. Last year at the annual dinner of the New York chamber of commerce his speech was the talk of the evening. A week later he was discussing ethics and religion at the banquet of the Liberal club in Buffalo. President Schurman is editor of *The Philosophical Review*, an American periodical which rivals the best philosophical journals of England and Germany. He is also editor of *The School Review*, and his annual reports are unsurpassed in their wise and suggestive treatment of college and secondary school studies. His firm grasp of educational principles is already seen in the revision of courses made at Cornell last year.

A Cosmopolitan University.

Cornell attracts students from all over the world. Not only does every county in New York state send one or more students, but every state in the republic, except three, and all the continents of the world are represented among Cornell students. New York state alone has more than 1,000 students at Cornell. Canada last year sent 49 of her sons and daughters to Cornell—more than to any other college in the United States. Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America all contribute to make Cornell one of the most cosmopolitan of American universities.

More than one-third of the students who go to Cornell enter Sibley college, the department of mechanical and electrical engineering, which is named after the late Hiram Sibley of Rochester in consideration of his large benefactions. The work begun by the father has been continued by the son, Hiram W. Sibley, Ph. D., whose latest benefaction is the erection of a new stone building, duplicating the main building. Sibley college has an international reputation.

and doubtless stands at the head of American technical schools—at least that is the opinion of European critics. Professor Ritter of Germany, who spent several months in the United States last year as the representative of the German government, first at the World's fair, and later studying American technical schools, reported that, "as far as regards instruction in mechanical engineering, Cornell university stands at the head of American institutions." It is

interesting to note Dr. Ritter's opinion that, while technical instruction in the United States is somewhat less solid and complete on the theoretical side than in Europe, it is much superior in its practical bearings. He praises "the truly grand achievements in engineering and machine construction in the United States." Dr. Thurston, the director of Sibley college, is known throughout the world as a leading authority on thermo dynamics, his works on the steam engine having been translated into many foreign languages. He was one of the organizers and the first president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

A Unique Relic.

Visitors to Cornell university always observe a horseshoe that occupies a conspicuous place in one of the Sibley college buildings. It has an interesting history which teaches a practical and useful lesson. Rev. Robert Collyer, the Unitarian clergyman of New York, best known perhaps as the hero of the great Chicago fire, was once engaged to give a lecture at the university. After the lecture the trustees, who knew that Dr. Collyer had been a blacksmith in his early career, invited him to go into the university blacksmith shops and give an exhibition of his skill as a lesson to American youths, who, whatever their aspirations, did not disdain to learn the practical arts which might serve as a foundation to subsequent training.

In response to the invitation Dr. Collyer donned overalls and jacket and welded the horseshoe that is now guarded with so much care by the Sibley college authorities. A great American painter, when commissioned to paint Dr. Collyer's portrait, heard of this incident and seized upon it as the scene for his painting. It is said that Dr. Collyer received from the trustees of the university a check for \$2,000 as the reward for making the horseshoe, or, more properly speaking, for the lesson which he thereby gave to American youth for all time.

The Great Library.

Of the 16 buildings, costing as many hundred thousand dollars, which Cornell uses for purposes of instruction, the one which arouses the most admiration among students and visitors is the library building, completed in 1891. This building, erected at an expense of \$350,000, can accommodate more than 500,000 volumes and is regarded as the model college library building of the United States. The library now contains about 160,000 volumes and 30,000 pamphlets and is surpassed by only two or three college libraries in the country. One of those which outnumber it is really less useful because less carefully selected. The well lighted reading room of the library contains ample accommodations for 320 students, who have free access to the open bookcases around its walls. These provide shelf room for a judiciously selected reference library of 8,000 volumes, comprising encyclopedias, dictionaries, treatises and standard works in the various departments. The north wing of the library houses the White historical library, a collection of works in many respects unequalled in the United States. From the White library a visitor may obtain one of the best views of the beautiful Cayuga lake and surrounding scenery. The university is situated upon an elevated plateau, from which the outlook is grand and picturesque. At the two sides of the plateau streams descend, like water at Lodore, roaring and sparkling and foaming from cataract to cataract into the gulch that deepens through the soft rock nearly 600 feet.

It was the outburst of a Boston minister, on his first sight of Cascadilla gorge, "Nature itself marked out this place for a great university." The wild-

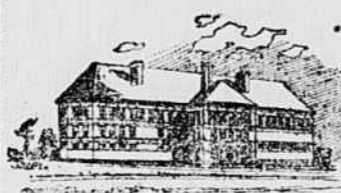


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THE LAW SCHOOL.

ness of the picturesque Cascadilla and Fall creek gorge is only paralleled by the magnificent beauty of the outlook from the campus above. The most experienced travelers concur in the verdict that no university in the world has so grand and noble a site as Cornell. The magnificence and the glory of nature suggest greatness to the imagination, and both the plans and their present execution betray the influence of the location upon the founders and builders of the university.

An Army of Students.

Turning back through the 26 years since the institution began as a university and looking at its history in the light and in the shadow, the ripeness of its plans, the absence of radical mistakes in the carrying out of its policy and the rapidity of its material and intellectual development are typical of American civilization in its best form. Today, with 1,700 students on its rolls, with an equipment of buildings that is unsurpassed in America, with a faculty that represents a large number of the best educators, with a variety of departments that recalls the many sided activity of the educational centers of the middle ages, with libraries, museums and laboratories that compare favorably with those of institutions established for two or three centuries, with a grip upon the best methods of education which is almost beyond the reach of an institution weighted down by tradition, and with a president who combines great executive ability with rare tact, oratorical power, scholarship and unbounded popularity, Cornell university stands on the vantage ground, if not at the head, of American educational institutions.

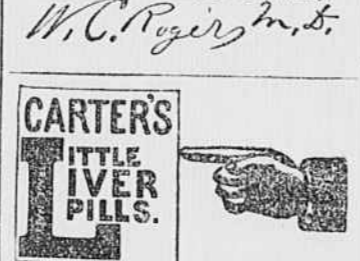
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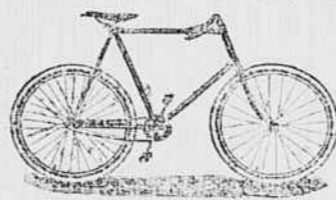
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